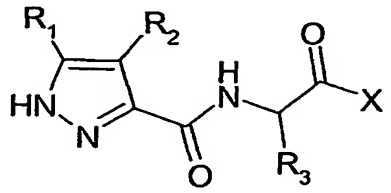
Claims:

1. The use of a compound of formula (I) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof, in the preparation of a composition for inhibition of HSP90 activity:



(I)

wherein

$R_1$ is a group of formula (IA):

$$-Ar^1-(Alk^1)_p-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q \qquad (IA)$$

wherein in any compatible combination

$Ar^1$ is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl radical,

$Alk^1$ and $Alk^2$ are optionally substituted divalent $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylene or $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenylene radicals,

p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is –O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -(C=S)-, $-SO_2-$, -C(=O)O-, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-C(=S)NR^A-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-NR^ASO_2-$ or $-NR^A-$ wherein $R^A$ is hydrogen or $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical;

$R_2$ is (i) a group of formula (IA) as defined in relation to $R_1$;

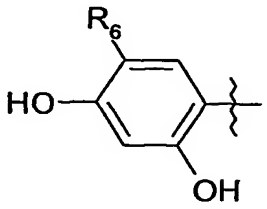
(ii) a carboxamide radical; or

(iii) a non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring wherein a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ wherein Q, $Alk^1$, $Alk^2$, Z, p, r and s are as defined above in relation to group (IA); and

$R_3$ is hydrogen, or methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl any of which being optionally substituted by hydroxy;

X is $-OR_4$ or $-NR_4R_5$ wherein $R_4$ and $R_5$ independently represent hydrogen or optionally substituted $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, or $R_4$ and $R_5$ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form an optionally substituted nitrogen-containing ring having 5-8 ring atoms.

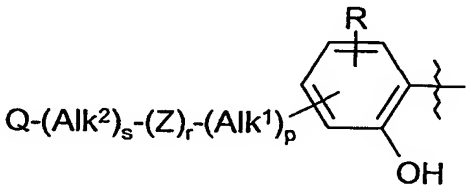
2. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein in the compound of formula (I), $R_1$ has formula (IB):



(IB)

wherein $R_6$ is chloro, bromo, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, or cyano.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein in the compound of formula (I) $R_1$ has formula (IC):



(IC)

wherein $Alk^1$, $Alk^2$, p, r, s, Z and Q are as defined in claim 1 in relation to formula (IA), and R represents one or more optional substituents.

4. The use as claimed in claim 2 wherein R is –OH in the 4- position of the phenyl ring and the $-(Alk^1)_p-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ substituent is in the 5- position of the phenyl ring.

5. The use as claimed in claim 4 wherein r is 0, and Q is hydrogen or optionally substituted phenyl.

6. The use as claimed in claim 5 wherein s is 0, p is 1 and $Alk^1$ is a non-substituted divalent $C_1$-$C_6$ alkylene or $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenylene radical.

7. The use as claimed in claim 5 wherein $Alk^1$ is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, or $-CH=CH-$.

8. The use as claimed in claim 4 wherein p, r and s are each 0

9. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein $R_2$ is phenyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2- or 3-furanyl, 2- or 3-thienyl, or thiazolyl, optionally substituted by one or more of methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, or trifluoromethyl.

10. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 wherein $R_2$ is optionally substituted phenyl.

11 The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 wherein $R_2$ is phenyl substituted in the 4 position by (i) $C_1$-$C_6$ alkoxy such as methoxy or ethoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, morpholinomethyl, piperazino, N-methylpiperazino, or piperidino, (ii)optionally substituted $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, eg optionally substituted methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or iso-propyl (iii) optionally substituted morpholino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-, thiomorpholino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-, piperazino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-, methyl piperazino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-, or diethylamino (iv) $-NH_2$, $-NHR^A$, $-NR^AR^B$, $-NHCOR^A$, $-NHCOOR^A$, $-NR^BCOOR^A$, $-NHSO_2OR^A$, $-NR^BSO_2OR^A$, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NR^ACONH_2$, $-NHCONHR^B$, $-NR^ACONHR^B$, $-NHCONR^AR^B$, or $-NR^ACONR^AR^B$ wherein $R^A$ and $R^B$ are independently a ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl group or (v) optionally substituted piperadino, piperazino, morpholino or thiomorpholino.

12. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 wherein $R_2$ is a carboxamide radical of formula $-CONR^B(Alk)_nR^A$ wherein

Alk is an optionally substituted divalent alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene radical,

n is 0 or 1,

$R^B$ is hydrogen or a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl or $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl group,

$R^A$ is hydroxy or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,

or $R^A$ and $R^B$ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form an N-heterocyclic ring which may optionally contain one or more additional hetero atoms selected from O, S and N, and which may optionally be substituted on one or more ring C or N atoms.

13. The use as claimed claim 12 wherein

Alk is an optionally substituted $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH=CH-$, or $-CH_2CCCH_2-$ radical.

n is 0 or 1,

$R^B$ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, or allyl,

$R^A$ is hydroxy, hydroxy and/or chloro-substituted phenyl, 3,4 methylenedioxyphenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, N-piperazinyl, or N-morpholinyl,

or $R^A$ and $R^B$ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a morpholino, piperidinyl, piperazinyl or N-phenylpiperazinyl ring.

14. The use as claimed in claim 12 wherein n is 0, $R^B$ is hydrogen and $R^A$ is hydroxy or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

15. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein $R_3$ is hydrogen.

16. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 wherein $R_3$ is other than hydrogen and the stereochemical configuration at the carbon centre to which it is attached is that of a D amino acid.

17. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein X is $-OR_4$ or $-NHR_4$ wherein $R_4$ is $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, or a primary- secondary, tertiary- or cyclic-amino group

18. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein X is $-NR_4R_5$ wherein $R_4$ and $R_5$ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a morpholino, piperidinyl or piperazinyl ring, the latter being optionally substituted by $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl on the second nitrogen.

19. A method of treatment of diseases or conditions mediated by excessive or inappropriate HSP90 activity in mammals which method comprises administering to the mammal an amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 15, or a salt, hydrate or solvate thereof, effective to inhibit said HSP90 activity.

20. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 18 or a method as claimed claim 16 for immunosupression or the treatment of cancer; viral disease, inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, multiple sclerosis, Type I diabetes, lupus, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel disease; cystic fibrosis angiogenesis-related disease such as diabetic retinopathy, haemangiomas, and endometriosis; or for protection of normal cells against chemotherapy-induced toxicity; or diseases where failure to undergo apoptosis is an underlying factor; or protection from hypoxia-ischemic injury due to elevation of Hsp70 in the heart and brain; scrapie/CJD, Huntingdon's and Alzheimer's disease.

21. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 18, or a salt hydrate or solvate thereof, for use in human or veterinary medicine.

22. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 18, or a salt, solvate or hydrate thereof.

23. A compound whose structure is set forth in any of the Examples herein, or a salt, solvate or hydrate thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as defined in claim 22 or claim 23, together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier.